

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00810 191532Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
AID-05 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /101 W
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P R 191705Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6373
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0810

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BY
SUBJECT: "WORK STOPPAGE" IN THE BU
UNDIAN ARMY

1. BEGINNING MORNING JULY 18, MOST, OR PERHAPS ALL, MILITARY AND GENDARMERIE UNITS IN BUJUMBURA HAVE BEEN "ON STRIKE" FOR HIGHER PAY AND EMOLUMENTS. PROMOTERS OF MOVEMENT SEEM TO BE NONCOMS SUPPORTED BY ORDINARY TROOPS. SEVERAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT SAME TROUBLE HAS SPREAD TO MAJOR CAMPS IN INTERIOR OF COUNTRY. MOST REPORTS DECLARE THAT PRESIDENT BAGAZA'S EFFORT TO END THE MUTINY AND RESTORE DISCIPLINE WAS REBUFFED, AND THAT CURRENT ACTION INVOLVES SURETE CHIEF, COLONEL SYLVERE NZOHABONAYO, ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN FROM SUPREME REVOLUTATIONARY COUNCIL (IN CONSTANT SESSION) TO DISAFFECTED TROOPS.

2. SO FAR, BURUNDI RADIO HAS CARRIED NOTHING OF THIS AFFAIR, AND THOUGH NEWS OF THE TROUBLE IS KNOWN FAIRLY WIDELY AMONG CIVILIAN POPULATION, LIF AND BUSINESS IN BUJUMBURA ARE COMPLETELY NORMAL. MOST PEOPLE EXPECT SOME SORT OF SETTLEMENT WHICH GIVES

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SOLDIERS WHAT THEY WANT, WHICH IS INCREASE IN INCOME COMPARABLE TO THAT GIVEN JULY ONE TO OFFICERS AND TOP LEVEL SERGEANTS (WHO WERE OSTENSIBLY BEING COMPENSATED FOR THE TERMINATION OF THEIR FREE HOUSING GRANT).

3. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT HEARD THAT THERE IS ANY POLITICAL CONTENT AT ALL IN THIS STRIKE ACTION. HOWEVER, THERE IS EVERY SIGN OF

ADVANCE COORDINATION AMONG THE STRIKE LEADERS IN THE CAPITAL, AND PROBABLY IN THE INTERIOR AS WELL. ONE CANNOT HELP WONDERING WHETHER SOME OFFICERS (WHOSE HAND IS STILL HIDDEN) MAY BOT RPT NOT HAVE HELPED PRECIPITATE THE ACTION. EVEN IF THIS IS NOT RPT NOT THE CASE, A VICTORY FOR THE NONCOMS AND TROOPS WILL CERTAINLY BE HEADY WINE LEADING THEM TO A NEW REALIZATION OF THEIR POTENTIAL POWER, ENHANCED BY THEIR SUCCESSFUL REBUFF OF BAGAZA. UNLESS THE PRESIDENT AND TOP COMMAND CAN DO SOME REORGANIZING AND RESHUFFLING TO RESTORE EFFECTIVE LOYALTY AND DISCIPLINE, THE REGIME WILL SEEM CONSTANTLY WEAK AND UNCERTAIN OF ITS COURSE AND STAYING POWER. THIS COULD BE AN OPEN SESAME FOR A RENEWAL OF INTRIGUES OF ALL SORTS, AND AN UNDERMINING OF THE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND QUEST FOR STABILITY WHICH THE BAGAZA GOVERNMENT DEEPLY NEEDS.

MARK

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Message Attributes

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